

the baseline, at his spot, left open again, was someone who once stood 5-foot-3 in a New Orleans high school, who grabbed the only scholarship offer he got, who was cut on Christmas Eve and at his friend's wedding.

There is a basketball god, all right: Avery Johnson needed only a second to swish the jumper he's been working on for a decade.

AJ deserves this ring. Robinson deserves this ring. Sean Elliott, Mario Elie, Jaren Jackson . . . name one who doesn't.

They were cast as soft victims, by Malone and Charles Barkley and Damon Stoudamire. By a lot of people without rings. But they rarely showed resentment.

They were so enjoyable that one New York newspaperman admitted he came to their interview sessions this week when he didn't have to, just so he could listen to them. They dunked and didn't beat their chests. They didn't turn on each other when they could have.

And someday, when Duncan wants to look back, he will turn on his VCR and remember the time of their lives. Men gathered from Drexel, Navy, American International, Southern and Pomona-Pitzer. Some without fanfare, all with something to prove. And they won.

IN HONOR OF DR. HERBERT
EDWARD POCH

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 1999

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, in this day of managed care and health maintenance organizations, it is easy to lose sight of the dedicated individuals in the medical profession who have devoted their lives to the care of others.

Tomorrow night, the staff at Monmouth Medical Center will honor just such an individual. Dr. Herbert Edward Poch will be retiring as director of Newborn Nursery at the hospital. His departure means the loss to Monmouth Center of a deeply-caring, personally-involved and highly-skilled pediatrician.

To the nurses on staff, Dr. Poch is "a grandfatherly figure who watches over us like a hawk and is never too busy to buy us lunch." on a daily basis, he provides the extra touches that turn a building of stone and glass and antiseptics into a congenial work place for staff, and a wonderful, state-of-the-art welcome center for new babies and their parents. Dr. Poch's professional expertise combined with his warm and engaging manner have made those first fragile days of life and parenthood easier and safer for thousands of families.

In addition to being an outstanding physician and administrator, Dr. Poch is a teacher of medical students and physician assistant students in the nursery and the outpatient departments. He has shared his knowledge with others in many lectures and symposiums. By virtue of serving as the model for the Monmouth Medical Center Advertising Campaign and being featured on billboards, bus posters and print ads, Dr. Poch is a familiar figure and symbol of the many fine medical practitioners throughout Central Jersey.

Dr. Poch earned his bachelor's degree from Columbia College—where he was captain of the Varsity Basketball Team—and his medical degree from the Columbia University College

of Physicians and Surgeons. He interned at Kings County Hospital in Brooklyn, N.Y., and completed his residency at Babies Hospital, Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center.

He was the medical director and original founder of the Make-A-Wish Foundation of New Jersey in the early eighties and was honorary trustee of the Ronald McDonald House of Long Branch from 1992 to 1998. Throughout his career, he has been very active in many community, athletic and public service endeavors.

To my friend and neighbor, Dr. Poch, I say congratulations on an outstanding career in medicine and a well-deserved reputation as a man of great character and compassion.

WORLD TIBET DAY CELEBRATION

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 1999

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, the nation of Tibet is a country with a long history stretching back nearly fifteen hundred years, with a unique and irreplaceable cultural and religious heritage.

In 1949, the People's Republic of China invaded Tibet and since that time, over 1.6 million Tibetans have been killed and more than 6000 monasteries destroyed. Whereas the government of China has committed "acts of genocide" in Tibet, and is currently committing systematic human rights violations in that country, including torture, arbitrary arrest, denial of freedom of religion, denial of free speech and free press, and coerced sterilizations and abortions. Whereas China seeks to absorb Tibet into China and is conducting economic development in Tibet contrary to the wishes of the Tibetan people.

The Dalai Lama, temporal and spiritual leader of Tibet, was forced to flee to northern India in 1959, where he has been living reluctantly ever since, working to keep alive the culture and religion of his people along with their hopes of freedom. Whereas the Dalai Lama has been trying unceasingly to establish a peaceful dialogue with the Chinese government concerning cultural, religious and political freedoms for the Tibetan people.

The Tibetan people in their cultural, religious, and political life are now facing the grim prospect of extinction.

On July 10th, one week after America's Independence Day, World Tibet Day will be held. This event shares in the spirit of freedom of Independence Day symbolizes, while also symbolizing the nation of Tibet since at this event many Tibetan communities will honor the birthday of the Dalai Lama (on July 6th). This day will showcase the variety and beauty of Tibet and affirm basic rights of the Tibetan people to religious, cultural and political freedoms. Further on the weekend of World Tibet Day, houses of worship in many parts of the world—churches, synagogues, mosques, temples, gurudwaras—will take part in an Interfaith Call for Freedom of Worship In Tibet and For Universal Religious Freedom. One of the overall goals of World Tibet Day is supporting the Dalai Lama's campaign for peaceful negotiations with China, without preconditions, on the future of Tibet.

I would like to help in the celebration of World Tibet Day on July 10, 1999.

OLD AND NEW MASTERS SHOW-
CASED BY A GOLDEN MASTER

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 1999

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, one of the specialties of life is its diversity and the many pleasant surprises it holds. Many people would believe that an individual with a prestigious doctorate in mechanical engineering who spent seven years as a professor at Wayne State and Michigan State Universities is a person who could design great works, and they would be right. But a fair number of people might not appreciate the fact that someone of such technical creativity is likely to recognize other accomplishments of imagination and celebrate them. Albert Scaglione is this admirable man who took a career in combining complexities to design treasures, and using his talent to appreciate other gems became one of the foremost art dealers in the world.

During his teaching career, Albert Scaglione opened Park West Gallery in 1969, in Southfield, Michigan. He started the gallery with his own private collection, and it has now grown to become the largest fine art gallery in North America, offering museum quality exhibitions and sales. He has been joined in his business by his wife, Mitsie, and now by their children, Lisa, Nicky, John and Marc. He and Mitsie also enjoy their grandchildren, Michael, Roman, Matthew and Angelo.

Albert Scaglione's world presence has been further enhanced with art auctions throughout the United States and Canada, and on 43 of the finest cruise ships, that attract some of the world's greatest art collectors. Whether a collector seeks old masters like Picasso, Rembrandt, or Chagall, or new artists like Peter Max, Fanch Ledan or Sharie Hatchett Bohlmann, that collector will find it at Park West Gallery.

For a man who is a member of numerous national honorary and professional societies, who is an active member of The Michigan Parkinson Foundation and the Karamanos Cancer Institute, and who has won awards from former Michigan Governor James J. Blanchard, the Michigan Cancer Foundation, and the American Red Cross, life is boundless. Using his own unrestrained vision, he has helped many others see that today's dreams are only a predictor of tomorrow's realities.

Family and friends will be coming together on July 4th to wish Albert Scaglione a most special and happy 50th birthday. Mr. Speaker, I urge you and all of our colleagues to join me in wishing him a most joyous day, and in thanking him for all that he has done to make a positive difference in this world.

SUPREME COURT DISABILITY RULING

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 1999

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member highly commends to his colleagues the following editorial, "Court Ruling on Disability

Makes Sense," which appeared in the Friday, June 25, 1999, edition of the Lincoln Journal Star.

COURT RULING ON DISABILITY MAKES SENSE

The U.S. Supreme Court decided this week that there is no requirement under the Americans With Disabilities Act that more than half the nation's population be classified as disabled.

That's a victory for common sense.

Ruling in four cases at once, the court concluded that Congress did not intend to have individuals who wear glasses, or people who have high blood pressure, given the same protections under the ADA as people who have disabilities such as blindness or paraplegia.

If Congress had intended to include those individuals, the court said, it would have estimated the number of people covered by the law at more than 160 million, instead of 43 million.

In one case considered by the court, United Airlines refused to hire two nearsighted sisters. Without glasses, their eyesight was worse than the 20/100 required by the airline. In another case a truck driver who could see out of only one eye was dismissed from that job. In the third case, a truck driver was dismissed because of high blood pressure.

Creating physical criteria for a job, the court noted, does not violate the ADA. "An employer is free to decide that physical characteristics or medical conditions that do not rise to the level of an impairment—such as one's height, build or singing voice—are preferable to others," wrote Justice Sandra O'Connor in the majority opinion. And who wouldn't prefer to have pilots who can see even if they lose their contacts or break their glasses?

The ADA has had a tremendous and largely positive effect on society. It made life more fair for citizens with disabilities by making public buildings accessible by wheelchair and protecting them from unnecessary discrimination in employment.

Advocates for the disabled profess to be outraged by the ruling. Georgetown University law professor Chai Feldblum, who helped draft the language of the ADA, even contends that Congress did intend to cover correctable impairments like those remedied by spectacles and medication.

Those advocates, however, would stretch the ADA beyond the limit of common sense and open employers to a broad new field of litigation. They would trivialize the original purposes of the law, and give nearly every employee the right to demand changes in the way an employer assigns and structures jobs.

The Supreme Court ruling is a welcome clarification of an ambiguous law. It closes the door on a potential new flood of lawsuits, and preserves the ADA for those who need its protection the most.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT DERK STRIKWERDA

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 1999

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to Sergeant Derk Strikwerda, a distinguished veteran of World War II and the Korean War. Sgt. Strikwerda has distinguished himself for his valor and dedication to others.

In 1943, Sgt. Strikwerda joined C Company of the 513th Parachute Infantry Regiment where he was immediately put into combat at

the Battle of the Bulge. After over half of his company was killed, Sgt. Strikwerda helped repel advancing German infantry from a tree ridge despite being ravaged by frostbite and dysentery.

During an ensuing Allied retreat, Sgt. Strikwerda witnessed extraordinary acts of bravery by fellow soldiers that left an indelible imprint on his memory. Over 50 years later, these experiences drove Sgt. Strikwerda to mount a vigorous campaign to see that his fellow soldiers were properly honored for their remarkable acts of courage. Through his selfless sacrifice, Sgt. Strikwerda represents the best in human achievement.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to acknowledge Sgt. Strikwerda, a true American patriot. I would like to thank him for his remarkable bravery when defending our nation and devotion to his fellow soldiers.

STATEMENT OF CONCERN OVER KASHMIR CONFLICT

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 1999

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to the Members of Congress the increasing tension in the Kashmir region, between India and Pakistan. Several weeks ago several hundred armed Afghani and Mujahideen infiltrators, backed by Pakistan, crossed the line-of-control (LOC) into the Kargila and Drass regions of Kashmir, India.

Mr. Speaker, this invasion runs counter to the Lahore Declaration, which is aimed at developing peaceful relations and cooperation between India and Pakistan. The agreement, signed last February, reiterates the commitment of both India and Pakistan to solve their differences and oppose terrorism in the region.

It is particularly disturbing to me that the government of Pakistan appears to have provided the armed infiltrators into Kashmir with support, both military and financial. This is deeply troubling in view of efforts to secure peace in the region.

This aggression against India should be undone so that stability can be restored. The infiltrators should immediately withdraw and Pakistan should respect the LoC and reaffirm and adhere to the commitments made in the Lahore Declaration. I encourage both countries to pursue a diplomatic solution and refrain from action which might escalate the fighting even more. I call on the Administration and my colleagues in Congress to fully support an immediate withdrawal from India. India and Pakistan should be taking positive steps toward resolving the crisis in Kashmir, and resume substantive bilateral talks.

HONORING CARL A. BALESTRACCI, JR., ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 1999

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join in paying trib-

ute to one of Connecticut's finest school administrators and community activists. People like Carl Balestracci are what make communities strong. From his important work educating the young people of Guilford for the past 32 years to his community involvement in many other settings, he has dedicated his life to the people of Guilford.

I often speak of our nation's need for talented, creative, enthusiastic teachers who are ready to help our children learn and grow. My good friend Carl is just that kind of educator. Throughout his career, he has touched the lives of thousands of children from elementary school to high school. Carl began as a special education teacher in New Haven—working with some of our community's most vulnerable children. He has been leading the fine Guilford schools for nearly two decades, and the most important testament to his talent is the capability of the intelligent young people that have emerged from these schools.

Public education is the cornerstone of the American dream, leveling the playing field and providing every child with the opportunity to make the most of his or her talents. It is talented professionals like Carl who truly shape the leaders of tomorrow. He is dedicated to the positive development of not only our children's intellect, but their character development as well. As a participant in the Assets Program along with leaders from the Guilford Police, local clergy, and other educators, he has led a community wide effort to foster strong values and character in our youth.

As a lifelong resident of Guilford, Carl is deeply involved in the life of our community. His active participation in the Democratic Town Committee, the Police Commission, and the Fire and Drum Corps have made him so visible and highly-regarded that I am sure many would agree that Carl Balestracci is truly a Guilford institution.

Today, as Carl celebrates his retirement, I would like to express my deepest thanks and appreciation for his tireless efforts for the town of Guilford. He is a community leader who is second to none, and his talent and commitment have truly left our community a better place. It is with great pride that I join friends and family to wish Carl many more years of health and happiness.

A TRIBUTE TO VINCENT BERGAMO

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite our colleagues to join me in honoring Vincent Bergamo, a great American who has spent his life promoting and upholding the principles of fairness and opportunity in the sport of harness racing.

Judge Bergamo is to be honored in Goshen, N.Y. on July 4th at the Harness Hall of Fame Dinner, where he is to receive the coveted Proximity Award for long and outstanding service to the sport of harness racing. The award, in itself, is a microcosm of the splendid career that has defined Vincent's life. Beginning in 1958 at our Monticello Raceway, Vincent has always been a part of the harness racing family. His love and admiration for the sport, first gained as a youngster when he